



## AP Government & Politics: U.S. 2000 Student Samples

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After the revolution, newly free Americans were greatly afraid of a centralized government that might be able to be as oppressive as the government they had just fought off. And so the Articles created a government of states. This proved to be a big problem when it came to organization nationally. There was no central leadership. The biggest problem was probably the one of commerce. The legislative branch was extremely weak and problems arose between states of interstate commerce. But Congress could do nothing to control this. The legislative branch couldn't even collect taxes. And so, to solve this, the Constitution granted these powers to Congress therefore making it the most powerful branch in our modern government. Then there was the weak executive. Afraid of a centralized rule in one person, the Articles created this position as merely honorary. It had no power. Hancock didn't even show up to accept the job when he was chosen. But, once again, the Framers of the Constitution reversed this by giving the executive such powers as commander in chief and he veto, once again vesting power to the federal govt. Third, under the Articles, there was no army. And when Shays's Rebellion happened, it became increasingly clear of the need for some sort of militia in order to keep peace. And so, under the Constitution, it was so. It was Shays's rebellion that made it immediately clear of the need for a more centralized govt. And when the framers met, they fixed these three problems by increasing the power of the federal govt.

But tensions still exist. Nothing is ~~more~~ this more evident in them by unfunded mandate. And when the American's with Disabilities Act was passed, states complained. The federal govt was using its supreme power to order states to do something. States did not like to be told what to do, especially

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if it was something that would cost money like providing equal access for the disabled. And what made this even worse was that the feds weren't willing to pay or even provide any funding to help the states get this done. So, do the states listen or not? It seems that they have to because the federal government is supreme. But, the states won't like it ~~either~~. Tension is high and in power struggles like these, it is apparent that the tension between the federal and state governments will be something that will be around for a long time.

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ESSAY #1

A. THE FIRST ATTEMPT OF A GOVERNMENT FREE FROM THE CHAINS OF BRITAIN WAS IN THE FORM OF THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION. LIKE EVERYTHING IN ITS FIRST ATTEMPT, THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION DID POSSESS SOME DOWNFALLS. FIRST, THE CONFEDERATION DID NOT POSSESS TO WIN ~~IN~~ ITS OWN MONEY, MEANING THAT THE ~~SAME~~ CONFEDERATION DID NOT HAVE A UNIFIED CURRENCY. SECOND, IN THE CASE OF WAR, THE CONFEDERATION HAD TO RELY ON THE MILITIAS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL STATE TO FIGHT. ANOTHER OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS WAS THAT THE CONFEDERATION DID NOT HAVE A JUDICIAL BRANCH TO DECIDE DISPUTES AMONG STATES. THE CONSTITUTION SOUGHT TO REMEDY THESE PROBLEMS BY EMPOWERING CONGRESS THE ABILITY TO TAX AND COIN MONEY, PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL ARMY AND NAVY FORCE, AND ALSO A JUDICIAL BRANCH THAT ~~WAS~~ WOULD DECIDE CASES.

B. GUN CONTROL - THE ISSUE OF GUN CONTROL HAS PROBABLY BEEN A BURNING ISSUE IN CONGRESS. ~~THE~~ THE MAJORITY OF THE ~~GENERAL~~ PUBLIC GENERALLY AGREES WITH STRICT GUN CONTROL. HOWEVER, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS) SUCH AS THE NRA (NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION)

ESSAY #1

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ARGUE THAT ~~IT IS THE BEST~~ STRONGER ENFORCEMENT OF PRESENT LAWS, RATHER THAN INCORPORATION OF NEW LAWS IS NEEDED.

Under the Articles of Confederation, great care was taken to ensure that a strong, centralized government would not be created. A repeat of the English monarchy was very undesired. The Articles gave the states most of the power for running themselves and the federal government was given very little power. The Constitution, <sup>however</sup> gave federal government more power, but enabled the states to keep certain aspects of their power. The federal government could not tax the states as they would tax themselves. In the Constitution, the federal government was given the power to tax the states. Under the Articles of Confederation, there would have been a lot of disagreeing and argument between states over what was best. In the Constitution, a Congress was formed which would take ~~ideas~~ ideas into consideration, but come up with a compromise.

Gun control is something which also shows tensions between decentralised and centralised power. Being such a controversial issue, many people feel the need to have stricter and more defined gun control laws. While the 2nd amendment says we have the "right to bear arms" there are many other opposing viewpoints and other powers that want to control the use of guns. ~~and~~